

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123
February 11, 2017

Meeting Held at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nancy Owen, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Benjamin Dillingham III, Member-at-Large; Ted Kagan, District 2 ; Anthony Stewart, District 1; John Weaver, District 4.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Robledo, Chair, District 5; Laurie Martell, District 3; Will Rodriguez, Secretary, Member at Large (appointment expired-has not reapplied)

OTHERS PRESENT

Wil Quintong, County of San Diego Office of Military & Veterans Affairs Officers; Troy Wilson, Veteran Service Representative, County of San Diego

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Nancy Owen, Vice Chair

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by new VAC member Tony Stewart

3. Introductions/Public (3 minutes)

4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting

There was motion to approve the minutes, motion passed by everyone.

5. Chairman's Report

Vice-Chair, Nancy Owen, welcomed Tony Stewart.

Vice-Chair spoke about unreimbursed cost of care (URCC). Thuy Mascorro, Administrator for the Veterans Home, Chula Vista, was unable to attend the meeting but provided some information related to the issue.

The VA announced establishment of presumption of service connection for illnesses associated with exposure of contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune. It applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987. A list of conditions was presumed associated.

Legislative:

Wil Quintong, OMVA Officer, offered to provide VAC legislative updates via email.

One VA

Nancy Owen said the wait for psychiatric appointments was 5.92 days. Nancy will forward the One VA minutes once she receives them.

Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)

The Chula Vista Veterans Home-Annual Golf Tournament will be Thursday May 4 at the Eastlake Country Club. Point of contact is Jacquelyn Bond (619) 482-6028 or email Jacquelyn.Bond@calvet.ca.gov (attachment 1).

The issue of changing the policy of seizing the assets of deceased veterans at the home for unreimbursed costs (URCC) is being looked into. Thuy Mascorro, Administrator of the Veterans Home, was unable to attend the VAC meeting. She explained the following on email:

“There are two charges to become a member of the Veterans Home: (1) a current charge known as the monthly fee; and (2) a deferred charge known as the unreimbursed cost of care (the URCC). The current charge is paid monthly and is set by statute at a fixed percentage of the resident’s income, depending upon the level of care. The deferred charge is due at death and payable from resident’s assets (if resident passes away while a member of the Home). It represents the difference between the actual cost of care while at the Home and the money received by the Home from resident, or on their behalf. While resident is at the Home, resident will receive quarterly statements. Quarterly statements are an estimate of the deferred charges (the URCC) for resident at that moment in time. If resident is concerned about what will happen to his/her assets at death (if he/she has an unreimbursed cost of care), resident needs to consult with an attorney. Neither I nor the Home can advise a resident on that matter. It takes special knowledge of the law, and of resident’s personal circumstances to advise correctly.”

She also provided the following link regarding the Military & Veterans Code regarding URCC: <http://codes.findlaw.com/ca/military-and-veterans-code/mvc-sect-1035.html>

United Veterans Council (UVC)

Nancy Owen and Ted Kagan attended the UVC meeting. Newly elected Assembly member Todd Gloria attended also. Reports from Directors of San Diego Healthcare System, Regional Office and Fort Rosecrans/Miramar Cemeteries were shared. The VA Cemetery system now allows Pre-Need Burial determination so that veterans and/or families can take care of approval of burial prior to death of individual. More information is available at: www.cem.va.gov. In the year 2016, there were 1020 burials at Miramar with 70% cremations.

Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA)

- Wil Quintong said that implementing Vet-Connect at the Imperial Beach Library was delayed due to flooding. Scheduled opening in March 2017
- Commencing planning for a Vet-Connect kiosk in the Valley Center Library.
- The NACVSO Conference will be on June 11-15, 2017 and it will be held in San Diego at the Town and Country Resort in Mission Valley. NACVSO President's reception is planned onboard USS MIDWAY.
- The Women's Veterans Forum will be October 13 or 20th depending on which date Keynote speaker Senator Duckworth is available.
- Additional Vietnam War 50th Anniversary certificates and pins are being ordered.
- Hidden Heroes and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation in conjunction with the City of San Diego honor caregivers. County of San Diego, District 5 is developing a Board Letter that will make the County of San Diego a Hidden Heroes partner. OMVA provided input to the Board Letter.

6. Community Reports

Tony Stewart spoke the US4Warriors organization and the upcoming Golf4Warriors tournament (attachment 2) and #FOOD4WARRIORS, feeding the troops, veterans and their families in need (attachment 3).

7. Unfinished Business

VAC Reappointments were reviewed. Ted Kagan's appointment expired 1/2/2017. He has requested reappointment through Chairperson Diane Jacob's office. Laurie Martell's appointment expired also on 1/2/2017 and she is waiting to hear about reappointment. Ben Dillingham's appointment expired 1/7/2017. Two "Member at Large" seats remain vacant.

8. New Business

None

9. Closing Remarks

No closing remarks.

10. Adjourned

10:40 AM.